SO BE IT FOREVER

A world that
can't change,
is a world
without hope.

Scanned and edited
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PART 1

MOVES AT NIGHT...

THE CHILD OF DARKNESS. RUNS IN THE SHADOWS QUICKLY AND QUIETLY.

FEAR FLASHES THROUGH EYES. PANTING. TURNS AROUND. JUMPS. RUNS.

HEART IS BEATING FAST. HEARS STEPS. KNOWS THAT IT'S CAUGHT.

AND WORSE, WILL KNOWS IT TOO.

OK, GET OUT OF THERE! THIS TIME YOU MADE A HUGE MISTAKE!

KRRP!

THE JAR WAS FULL OF COOKIES IN THE EVENING. I THOUGHT WE HAD ALREADY AGREED ABOUT THE RULES.

?

YOU ARE NOT A DORMOUSE, YOU ARE A PIG IN DISGUISE. HERE! TAKE THE LAST COOKIE AS A DESSERT.

UUH!

OUK! OUK! OUK!

WHAT'S WRONG?

OH NO! DON'T DO THIS TO ME. SAY SOMETHING! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HE'S SICK. WHAT CAN I DO? MOM IS IN A MEETING AND WON'T ANSWER HER PHONE. WHO COULD HELP?

OF COURSE! MATT! WHERE DID I PUT HIS NUMBER?

MMM... OUK!

HI, IS MATT HOME? I'M.. I'M... UH, YES, A FRIEND! WHEN IS HE COMING BACK? THIS IS IMPORTANT.

OKAY! WAIT A MINUTE, I'LL WRITE IT DOWN. ALMOND STREET...

"...NUMBER 12. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!"

PET SHOP

Olsen's

THERE IT IS! THAT MUST BE MATT'S GRANDPA'S PET SHOP.

HELLO. CAN I COME IN?

TL'ING

OF COURSE, MISS. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

WELL, LOOK WHO IT IS.

ERM... HI, MATT!

DO YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

ARE YOU ON ERRANDS OR DID YOU COME HERE TO SLAP ME AGAIN?

UM... I CAN EXPLAIN.

PRETEND I'M NOT HERE!

SO YOU HAVE AN EXPLANATION? LET'S HERE IT THEN.

ACTUALLY, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE EVEN IF I TOLD YOU THE WHOLE STORY.

WHAT ON EARTH WAS MY ASTRAL DROP THINKING?

FIRST KISSES AND THEN SLAPS. CAN ANYBODY BE THAT STUPID?

* YES, AS YOU REMEMBER IF YOU READ THE PREVIOUS ISSUE.

I'M STILL WAITING.

UM... YES... BUT ACTUALLY I HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT! LOOK!

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

HE ATE TOO MANY COOKIES.

GRANDPA?

OH RIGHT, WHEN IT'S EMERGENCY, YOU REMEMBER THE OLD ONES TOO.

BY THE WAY, NICE TO MEET YOU, MISS...

WILL! WILL VANDOM.

LET'S SEE... DORMOUSE IS A VERY UNUSUAL PET TO HAVE.

GOOD, GOOD. I'M SURE YOUR FRIEND WILL BE SAVED THIS TIME TOO. YOU SEEM TO BE HIS GUARDIAN ANGEL.

WILL RESCUED IT FROM THE PARK A WHILE AGO.

I'LL KEEP HIM HERE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS, IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU. YOU'LL GET HIM BACK WHEN HE GETS BETTER.

WOW, THIS IS ALMOST LIKE A PET HOSPITAL!

GRANDPA HAS BEEN A VET FOR ALMOST FIFTY YEARS.

I DON'T WANT TO RETIRE. ANIMALS ARE LIKE CHILDREN TO ME.

GRANDPA IS A BIT STRANGE. HE SELLS ANIMALS ONLY TO NICE PEOPLE.

TRUE. THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GETTING A LOT OF MONEY. I HAVE VERY SELECTIVE TASTE.

YOU SEEM TO BE A SMART GIRL, THOUGH. IF YOU WANT TO BUY AN ANIMAL, I'LL BE PLEASED TO SELL YOU ONE.

OH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH, BUT A DORMOUSE IS ALREADY ENOUGH.

EVEN THOUGH A KITTEN OR A DOG WOULD BE LOVELY.

YOU CAN HAVE BOTH IF YOU WANT. YOU SEE, I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP ME IN HERE.

YOU'D GET TO TAKE CARE OF THESE ANIMALS COUPLE OF DAYS IN A WEEK.

THAT... THAT WOULD BE GREAT!

THIS YOUNG MAN IS SO MUCH INTO HIS MUSIC THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO HELP HIS OLD GRANDPA.

LEAVE IT BE ALREADY, GRANDPA.

JUST BETWEEN US, YOU COULD SLAP HIM MORE OFTEN. IT WOULD JUST DO HIM GOOD.

UHH... I'LL THINK ABOUT THAT JOB OFFER. IT SOUNDS GOOD.

IF YOU LIKE ANIMALS AND YOU NEED SOME MONEY, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE. THINK ABOUT IT!

YES, I WILL! I JUST HAVE TO TALK WITH MY MOM FIRST.

DID YOU HEAR? SHE ALMOST PROMISED.

PROMISES INDEED:

PROMISED? WHEN DID I PROMISE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

IRMA! YOU'LL GO TO THE LIVING ROOM NOW, OR I'LL GET MAD!

BUT I WANT TO DO MY HOMEWORK! I HAVE TO STUDY! PUT A CABBAGE INSTEAD OF ME! HE WON'T NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE!

ENOUGH ALREADY! DON'T BE CHILDISH.

MOM! COULDN'T WE TALK ABOUT THIS?

NO! IF YOU PROMISE TO GO ON A DATE, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO!

I DIDN'T PROMISE ANYTHING. IT WAS MY STUPID ASTRAL DROP.

SHHHH

YOU MUST BE CRAZY TO PROMISE SOMETHING LIKE THIS. OUT OF YOUR MIND!

ALRIGHT, MARTIN, HERE SHE IS.

MY LITTLE TWIST BUN! YOU ARE STUNNING!

ARE WE GOING TO A COSTUME PARTY OR ARE ALL OF YOUR CLOTHES IN THE LAUNDRY?

THIS OCCASION NEEDS VALUABLE CLOTHING.

I HAVE DREAMED ABOUT THIS DAY FOR TWO YEARS.

SIGH... ONE'S DREAM, ANOTHER'S NIGHTMARE.

DON'T WORRY, MARTIN. IRMA IS IN A BAD MOOD TODAY. USUALLY SHE IS MORE POLITE.

HE COULD ALSO BE MORE POLITE AND CHOOSE SOME OTHER CLOTHES.

?

GIRLS! I LOVE THE WAY YOU TRY TO HIDE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS WITH FAKE ANGER.

HAVE FUN, TWIST BUN!

GRRR...

IN THIS SUIT, I MIGHT SEEM SERIOUS AND FORMAL, BUT I'M ACTUALLY TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

NOT LIKE I WANT US TO MOVE TOO QUICKLY, BUT I BELIEVE WE ARE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER.

REALLY? DID YOU READ IT FROM YOUR CUB SCOUT HANDBOOK?

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS! GUYS LIKE ME GET GIRLS INTERESTED WITH WISDOM. WHEN YOU FALL FOR ME...

CLOWN

BIBO

...I WILL ALWAYS SURPRISE YOU AGAIN. SEE? I LOOK VERY DIFFERENT WITHOUT GLASSES.

YIKES!

BDUMP DUMP BUMP DUMP BDUMP BDUMP BDUMP DUMP

UUH... WELL, HOW DO I LOOK?

LIKE A NEARSIGHTED GUY, WHO HAS FALLEN FLAT ON HIS FACE ON THE CEMENT.

DO YOU NEED HELP, DEAR?

MARTIN, LISTEN...

NO, THANK YOU, I HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.

HERE WE ARE. MUSEUM OF HEATHER-FIELD.. I CAN ALREADY PICTURE US SAYING: "DO YOU REMEMBER THAT AFTERNOON IN THE MUSEUM?"

MARTIN...

I BOUGHT THE TICKETS BEFOREHAND. WE ARE YOUNG ENOUGH TO GET A DISCOUNT ON THEM.

MARTIN, BEFORE WE GO IN, I NEED TO MAKE ONE THING CLEAR WITH YOU.

YOU ARE A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE. SOMETIMES A BIT ANNOYING, BUT A FRIEND!

JUST A FRIEND! DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

?

I'M HERE JUST AS YOUR FRIEND. PLEASE, LOOK THE TRUTH IN THE EYES!

DO I HAVE TO?

IT IS BEST FOR EVERYBODY, BELIEVE ME.

ALRIGHT.

I MADE MYSELF LOOK LIKE A COMPLETE FOOL, DID I? YOU PROBABLY WANT TO GO HOME RIGHT AWAY?

OF COURSE NOT! YOU TOOK ME HERE, SO I MIGHT AS WELL LOOK THE WHOLE PLACE THROUGH.

AHA! YOU DO HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME! I KNEW IT!

MARTIN!

OKAY, MY PANCAKE, THIS WAY. LET'S START FROM THE DINOSAURS.

HEHE! WE JUST CAME IN AND YOU WANT TO INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR FAMILY ALREADY.

SPEAK A LITTLE LOUDER! GRANDMA IS ALMOST DEAF.

MARTIN SEEMS TO BE NICER THAN I THOUGHT. AT LEAST HE HAS A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR.

EEEEEEK

UH! I SAID SPEAK LOUDER, NOT SCREAM.

IT WASN'T ME.

HELP!

MISS STEVENS! WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

UP THERE! UP!

LET'S GO HAVE A LOOK.

ATTENTION, GUARDS! THERE'S AN EMERGENCY SITUATION IN THE EAST WING!

IT WAS... IT WAS HORRIBLE!

NOTHING IN HERE.

KSSSSSSH...

REALLY? LOOK UP THERE.

WHOA!

KSSSSH...

GOOD GOD! RUN, IRMA!

FTUMP

KNIF... KNIF... YOU... YOU ARE...

...A GUARDIAN! KSSS!

A GUARDIAN!

WAIT! DON'T GO!

KSSSS...

WAIT!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MISS?

EXCUSE ME? YE-YES.

THE CREATURE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE!

WE SHOULD LEAVE, MARTIN.

WOW! DID YOU SEE IT? IT WAS SOME KIND OF A LIZARD.

NOT A LIZARD, MY FRIEND. IT WAS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT.

NEXT DAY IN SCHOOL:

ARE YOU SURE?

DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU AGAIN? IF IT WASN'T A CREATURE FROM MERIDIAN, THEN WHAT WAS IT?

TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPERS DIDN'T TAKE IT SO SERIOUSLY. THEY THINK IT IS SOME SORT OF GROUP HALLUCINATION.

IF IT KNEW YOU WERE A GUARDIAN, THEN THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

ARE YOU GUYS BUSY AFTER SCHOOL?

I SHOULD BE STUDYING. I HAVEN'T HAD MANY GOOD GRADES LATELY.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO YOU? YOU CAN CONTROL THE TEST QUESTIONS WITH YOUR THOUGHTS.

CAN'T YOU BE QUIET JUST FOR ONCE, CORNY?

WHY DID YOU ASK, WILL?

I WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT WHAT THAT CREATURE WAS DOING IN THE MUSEUM.

I BET THE ANSWER CAN BE FOUND HERE.

THE MAP OF THE TWELVE PORTALS! DO YOU TAKE IT EVERYWHERE WITH YOU?

IN MY BAG IT'S SAFE.

WELL, LOOK AT THAT!

YOU WERE RIGHT, HAY LIN. ONE OF THE PORTALS IS IN THE MUSEUM.

MUSEUM

CAN I SEE WHAT YOU LADIES ARE LOOKING AT SO EAGERLY?

ARE YOU TALKING TO US, MRS KNICKERBOCKER?

MISS LAIR, YOUR ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT IS ADMIRABLE, BUT NOT VERY ORIGINAL. I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING AT.

HOPEFULLY IT'S SOMETHING THAT SUITS MY EYES TOO. AFTER ALL, THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY SECRETS BETWEEN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, DON'T YOU THINK?

NO, OF COURSE NOT!

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING BEHIND YOUR BACK, HAY LIN? AND DON'T EVEN CONSIDER ASKING "WHAT BACK?"

NOTHING SPECIAL, MRS. IT'S.. IT'S ONLY A DRAWING.

SOUNDS INTERESTING. LET ME SEE.

COME OUT, DRAWING! BE GONE, STUPID MAP!

HERE!

!

BUT IT'S ME! MAGNIFICENT! THIS MUST HAVE TAKEN HOURS TO DRAW.

NO, VICE VERSA. SHE CONJURED IT UP IN A SECOND...

UM, IT'S NOT THAT WONDERFUL.

I KNEW YOU WERE A GOOD ARTIST, BUT THIS IS A MASTER PIECE! CAN I KEEP IT?

NO!

WHAT?

THIS... THIS IS JUST A SKETCH! THE FINISHED ARTWORK WILL MAKE YOUR DELICATE FEATURES COME TO LIFE.

WELL, THANK YOU, HAY LIN. I WISH I'LL GET IT SOON. I'LL PUT IN ON MY OFFICE'S WALL.

THAT WAS FLATTERING! THE PRINCIPAL HASN'T LOOKED DELICATE IN HER WHOLE LIFE.

YOU SHOULD THANK ME. IF SHE HAD SEEN THE MAP, WE'D BE IN TROUBLE.

PHEW...

IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOU WE ALMOST GOT IN THE TROUBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE. WE HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL.

SIGH! GOT IT.

SO, DO WE ALL AGREE? THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED AT SIX O'CLOCK.

"WE'LL MEET THEN."

SO WE'LL MEET AT THE MUSEUM AT SIX THIRTY TONIGHT. AGREED?

I'M IN, URIAH!

YEP!

I ASKED IF EVERYBODY AGREES.

OF COURSE, URIAH. THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T UNDERSTAND, THOUGH.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO TO THE MUSEUM AFTER IT 'S CLOSED?

JUST FOR FUN, NIGEL!

I WANT TO FIND OUT IF THERE REALLY IS A MONSTER LIKE THEY SAID ON TV.

THEY ARE JUST RUMOURS. WE'LL GET CAUGHT.

SO WHAT? NOTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPENS IN THIS SMALL TOWN ANYWAY.

SLURP! SO TRUE!

YOU GET IT, MY FRIEND? I NEED ACTION!

"THAT'S WHY I WANT TO INVEST IN THE HORROR EXPERIENCES."

HEATHERFIELD MUSEUEM

THE MUSEUM HAS SEVERAL NIGHT TIME VISTORS...

EVERYTHING'S CLEAR, WILL. NOBODY'S AROUND.

OKAY. COME CLOSER.

WOOOSH

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET IN?

FROM THE BACK WINDOW.

WHAT ABOUT THE ALARMS?

IF I CAN TALK WITH HOME APPLIANCES, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TALK WITH THEM, TOO.

"YOU HAVE TO BE NICE TO THEM."

ARE YOU HERE BECAUSE OF THOSE WEIRDOS? YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE COPS.

NO... BUT I THINK WE CAN HELP.

WELL... YOU CAN GO IN, IF YOU BEHAVE.

WHAT A SUSPICIOUS MACHINE.

I THINK AN ALARM SHOULD BE.

SO, CAN WE GO IN?

GO AHEAD! I CLOSE MY EYES.

OKAY. HERE'S WHERE IT HAPPENED.

DO YOU SENSE ANY-THING?

NOT YET.

THE PORTAL SHOULD BE NEAR. TRY TO CONCENTRATE.

OH NO!

WHAT?

LOOK AT THAT PAINTING!

"ETERNA" PRIMAVERA ELIAS VAN DAHL

ELIAS VAN DAHL'S "ETERNAL SPRING".

BUT LOOK AT THE CROWD NEAR THAT HOUSE.

UNBELIEVABLE. ONE OF THE GIRLS LOOKS JUST LIKE...

ELYON!

ACTUALLY, I'M BEHIND YOU, GIRLS.

!

LOOKS LIKE WE MEET AGAIN, MY FRIENDS.

YOU!

AND THIS TIME IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE!

FLASH

AAAH!

IMPRESSIVE, ELYON.

CLAP CLAP

I HAVE LEARNED A LOT, DON'T YOU THINK? AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE MAGIC POWERS, TOO. AND WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, I'M MORE POWERFUL THAN THE FIVE OF YOU TOGETHER.

BUT THAT IS...

CEDRIC, THE BOY FROM THE BOOKSHOP. YOU KNOW HIM IN THIS FORM.

BUT YOU HAVE MET HIM IN THIS FORM TOO. SURPRISED?

I WAS, TOO, AT FIRST. BUT CEDRIC TOLD ME FEW THINGS.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU, ELYON? YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF.

HAH! YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! HAVE YOU NOTICED YOU HAVE WINGS ON YOU BACK?

DON'T, ELYON! HEATHERFIELD IS YOUR WORLD. YOUR HOME IS HERE.

YOU'RE WRONG, WILL. I BELONG IN MERIDIAN.

AND MERIDIAN BELONGS TO YOU AND YOUR BROTHER PHOBOS, OH THE LIGHT OF MERIDIAN.

PHOBOS?

IT'S A LONG STORY, GIRLS. A STORY THAT STARTED A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN MY PARENTS RULED MERIDIAN.

"MY PARENTS DISAPPEARED, WHEN I WAS STILL A BABY. I WAS TAKEN CARE BY A NURSEMAID. MY BROTHER, WHO HAD JUST ACCEDED THE THRONE, GAVE ME TO HER."

"BUT THE NURSEMAID BETRAYED MY BROTHER'S TRUST. SHE STOLE ME WITH TWO OFFICERS AND TOOK ME FAR AWAY FROM MERIDIAN."

"THEY OPENED THE PORTAL WITH THE SEAL OF PHOBOS AND TOOK ME TO YOUR WORLD."

"THOSE TWO OFFICERS PRETENDED TO BE MY PARENTS AND THAT NURSEMAID..."

WELL, YOU ALREADY KNOW HER AS YOUR MATH TEACHER.

MISS RUDOLPH!

I GREW UP WITH THESE PEOPLE, IN THE SHADOW OF LIES AND BETRAYAL! I LOVED AND RESPECTED TRAITORS.

I BECAME ATTACHED TO THOSE WHO HAD TAKEN ME AWAY FROM MY REAL FAMILY.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ELYON?

I'M JUST TELLING THE TRUTH. CEDRIC OPENED MY EYES. DO YOU REMEMBER THAT AFTERNOON AFTER THE HALLOWEEN PARTY?

"CEDRIC INVITED ME IN TO HIS BOOKSHOP. I THOUGHT HE WANTED TO GET TO KNOW ME..."

"..BUT HE ALREADY KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME."

LISTEN CAREFULLY, ELYON.

I'M GOING TO TELL YOU AN INCREDIBLE STORY. YOUR STORY!

"I HEARD EVERYTHING THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM ME. I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHO I WAS."

HE ALSO TOLD ME WHO YOU ARE. THE GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL! ENEMIES OF MERIDIAN!

ENEMIES? I DON'T KNOW WHAT CEDRIC HAS TOLD YOU, BUT THE TRUTH IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

SILENCE!

PAW

BECAUSE OF THE VEIL YOU PROTECT, THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN HAVE TO LIVE IN AGONY AND FEAR, WITHOUT A WAY TO ESCAPE THAT PRISON.

BECAUSE OF THE VEIL YOU PROTECT, MY BROTHER HAD TO SEARCH FOR ME FOR YEARS.

BECAUSE OF THE VEIL YOU PROTECT, MY LIFE HAS CHANGED. AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I HATE YOU, GUARDIANS!

YOU WERE OUR FRIEND, ELYON!

EXACTLY, IRMA. *I WAS!* BUT NOW I DON'T KNOW YOU ANYMORE. LOOK AT YOURSELVES.

YOU ARE OLDER! MORE BEAUTIFUL! YOU HAVE... CHANGED.

YOU HAVE CHANGED TOO, ELYON.

WHEN I HAD ARRESTED THE FRAUDS THAT WERE SUPPOSED TO BE MY PARENTS...

...I FOUND MY REAL HOME ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VEIL. I ALSO FOUND MY POWERS IN MERIDIAN!

SLEEPING POWERS THAT AWAITED THEIR AWAKENING!

YES...

KZZZRRKZ..

SUPREME POWERS THAT HELP ME CONTROL EVERYTHING!

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?

WE'VE BEEN IMPRISONED IN THIS BUBBLE! LET'S TRY TO BREAK IT TOGETHER.

KZZKZRRR

KZZZKRKP

FZAAK

HAH HAH! THAT'S USELESS, GIRLS.

KKZZZZZ

YOUR STORY ENDS HERE!

CRAKZZZ

SOON YOU WILL FEEL THE AGONY OF MERIDIAN.

SOON YOU WILL UNDERSTAND HOW IT FEELS TO LIVE AS A PRISONER... FAR AWAY FROM EVERYTHING...

ZCRAKZ

...FOREVER!

WILL!

WIIILL!

SO BE IT FOREVER

PART 2

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HMM...

SIGH!

BRILLIANT, ELYON. VERY BRILLIANT.

PRINCE PHOBOS WILL BE PLEASED.

CERTAINLY, VATHEK. THE BRATS OF KANDRAKAR WON'T CAUSE US TROUBLE ANYMORE.

THEY WILL BE TRAPPED IN THE PAINTING FOREVER. NO ONE CAN HELP THEM.

OUTSIDE OF THE MUSEUM:

LOOK, GUYS. SOMEONE HAS LEFT THE WINDOW OPEN.

NO WONDER WHY THEY HAVE BURGLARS.

IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM. FOLLOW ME.

TURN OFF THAT FLASHLIGHT.

HUSH! WE HAVE TO WALK QUIETLY LIKE PUMAS.

I LIKE PUMAS!

OUCH!

KONG

RATACLANG KLANG SBRANG

KURT! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?

DON'T BLAME ME. IT'S PITCH BLACK IN HERE. I CAN'T SEE A THING.

THE NOISE PROBABLY TURNED THE ALARMS ON. WE SHOULD LEAVE!

LEAVE IF YOU WANT! BUT COWARDS DON'T HAVE A PLACE IN THE GANG ANYMORE.

WE CAME TO HUNT MONSTERS, NIGEL. WE ARE NOT LEAVING UNTIL WE'VE SEEN AT LEAST ONE.

!

BUMP

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, BOYS?

RRRRR...

AAAAH!

THE BOYS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES IN TROUBLE. JUST A MOMENT AGO, THESE GIRLS WERE SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS IN THE WORLD.

THEY COULD CONTROL THE ELEMENTS WITH THEIR WILLPOWER.

HOWEVER, EVERYTHING'S TRANSIENT. WILL, IRMA, TARANEE, CORNELIA AND HAY LIN ARE COMPLETELY HELPLESS NOW!

THAT'S BECAUSE THEY ARE TRAPPED IN A PAINTING.

MOVE ON, BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

OH NO... I THINK WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

HOORAY!

HAH HAH HAA!

HAHHAH!

DON'T YOU GET IT? WE HAVE ENDED UP INSIDE THE PAINTING. ELYON DID THIS TO US.

WH-WHERE ARE WE? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

BUT WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

YOU ARE TALENTED, MY BOY!

HOORAY FOR OUR JUGGLER!

OUCH!

BUMP

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

HEY! LOOK AT THOSE GIRLS!

WHO ARE THEY?

I BET THEY AREN'T FROM THIS REGION.

ARE YOU TRAVELING PERFORMERS? WHERE IS YOUR WAGON?

THEY MUST BE JESTERS. LOOK AT THEIR COSTUMES!

JESTERS? AT LEAST OUR CLOTHES ARE MORE FASHIONABLE THAN YOUR RAGS!

CALM DOWN, IRMA.

LET'S TRANSFORM BACK TO OUR NORMAL FORMS. WE DRAW TOO MUCH ATTENTION NOW.

OKAY! LET'S DO THAT.

BUT...

NOTHING'S HAPPENING. WHY HAVEN'T WE TRANSFORMED?

I CAN'T USE MY POWERS..!

POWERS? WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

ARE THEY MAGICIANS?

NO, THEY ARE WITCHES! ARREST THEM.

WHAT AN UNSOPHISTICATED PLACE! THEY ARE STILL AFRAID OF WITCHES!

I THINK WE SHOULD BE MORE AFRAID OF THEM.

TRUE, BUT ONLY IF THEY CATCH US.

BRRRUMBLE

YOU WON'T STOP US! CATCH THEM!

SWISH

I FEEL LIKE WE ARE ALWAYS BEING CHASED, NO MATTER WHERE WE GO. SAME HAPPENED IN MERIDIAN, TOO.

OR OUR LIVES. WE CAN ALWAYS STAY HERE AND ASK.

MAYBE OUR REPUTATION HAS SPREAD HERE AND THEY JUST WANT OUR AUTOGRAPHS.

THEY ARE ON THE ROOF!

WE'RE LIKE SITTING DUCKS! WE HAVE TO COME DOW... ...AAAA!

FRUMP

AAAH!

EEEEK!

OUCH!

TUMP

NOW YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ANYMORE, LITTLE GIRLS.

THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE KEEPS TELLING US...

BUT YOU CAN'T CATCH US THAT EASILY!

THIS WAY! QUICKLY!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

AAAH!

WE CAUGHT THEM, CAPTAIN.

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU BABOON!

WHAT CREATURES ARE THEY? THESE WINGS...

...ARE REAL!

AMAZING!

PUT THEM IN THE DUNGEON. I WILL REPORT THIS TO THE CARDINAL IMMEDIATELY.

NOT SO FAST, CAPTAIN VON SCHLIESE.

YOU!

THE DUNGEON ISN'T THE RIGHT PLACE FOR FIVE SWEET GIRLS.

YOU HEARD HIM, MONKEY! GET YOUR SWEATY HANDS OFF ME AND GET LOST!

NOT EVEN HER? SHE'S SWEET ONLY BY HER LOOKS.

NO, CAPTAIN. REPORT TO THE CARDINAL THAT THE GIRLS ARE MY GUESTS.

BUT MR VAN DAHL...

THANK YOU FOR YOU HELP, SIR!

HEHHEH! JUST CALL ME ELIAS.

YOU SEEM TO BE PRETTY POWERFUL SINCE YOU STOPPED THOSE SOLDIERS THAT EASILY.

I'M NOT SURE IF PEOPLE RESPECT ME OR IF THEY'RE AFRAID OF ME.

NEVERTHELESS, THESE PEOPLE OWE ME MUCH. THIS SKY, THESE PEOPLE, THIS TOWN..

...I CREATED THEM!

!

MEANWHILE, IN THE HEATHERFIELD MUSEUM...

...THE BOYS HAVE JUST FOUND WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR.

AAAAAH!

ST-STAY AWAY FROM ME!

YOU'RE PRETTY AMUSING, WHIPPERSNAPPER, BUT TOOTHPICKS WON'T IMPRESS ME!

SLASH

OUCH!

STUNK

RUN! RUN! QUICKLY!

!

RUN, KURT! RUN!

WILL YOU LET THEM ESCAPE? THEY SAW US.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM, VATHEK. THEY ARE HARMLESS CREATURES.

WE CAN RETURN TO MERIDIAN. OUR MISSION HERE IS ACCOMPLISHED.

ELYON IS RIGHT, VATHEK. LET THE BOYS GO. NO DOUBT THEY'LL TELL EVERYBODY WHAT THEY SAW...

...BUT I DOUBT ANYONE WILL BELIEVE THEM.

FWOOOSH

AAAAH! THE MONSTERS ARE GOING TO EAT US!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? COME HERE, KURT!

EXIT

LET ME OUT! I WANT OUT!

TUMP

I WANT TO GO HOME!

CRASH

WEEOO

THE ALARMS WENT OFF!

IDIOT! IT'S YOUR FAULT!

HURRY TO THE REAR EXIT! LET'S GET OUT BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVES!

HEY, YOU THERE! STOP IMMEDIATELY!

I DON'T THINK SO. FASTER, BOYS! RUN!

STOP!

WE SHOULD TURN OURSELVES IN, URIAH! THE GUARD HAS A GUN!

STAY HERE IF YOU WANT, MORON.

BUT IF YOU TELL ANYONE THAT I WAS HERE, I'LL BEAT YOU. IS THAT CLEAR?

Y-YES.

YOUR ESCAPADE ENDS HERE. DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS.

ALRIGHT, BOYS.

"FOLLOW ME."

COME ON IN, LADIES.

THIS IS WHERE I LIVE. IT'S NOT A PALACE, BUT IT'S COMFORTABLE. THE VIEW FROM THE WINDOW TO THE CATHEDRAL IS BEAUTIFUL.

THERE ARE LOTS OF PAINTINGS. ARE YOU A PAINTER?

IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE I PAINTED. I CAN'T FINISH ANYTHING ANYMORE.

SHADOWS... INCOMPLETE FIGURES... WITHOUT COLOURS IT'S USELESS TO EVEN TRY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOUR COLOURS?

IT'S ONLY A MIRAGE. EVERYTHING AROUND YOU IS AN ILLUSION. IT'S THE RESULT OF PHOBOS' CURSE.

NOW I CAN SEE THAT THE SAME CURSE HAS BEEN CAST ON YOU, TOO. WHY ARE YOU BEING PUNISHED?

DID YOU DARE TO LOOK AT HIM? DID YOU TAKE ONE STEP TOO CLOSE?

WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY.

WORLD NEEDS TO BE SAVED, PHOBOS RESISTS. THAT'S IT.

"THAT'S IT?"

NO NEED TO SULK, IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT SHORT.

WE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF KANDRAKAR.

OOH! THE LEGENDARY GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL. YOUR NAMES ARE WHISPERED IN MERIDIAN WITH FEAR.

YOU SEEM PRETTY YOUNG TO BE THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD CREATURES.

WE ARE YOUNG. WE JUST STARTED.

AND THINGS BACKFIRED IMMEDIATELY.

WE GOT TRAPPED IN THIS PAINTING AND WE CAN'T USE OUR POWERS.

AIR, WATER, EARTH AND FIRE, AM I RIGHT? NO WONDER WHY.

NOTHING IS REAL HERE. SOON YOU'LL NOTICE THAT YOU NO LONGER FEEL HUNGER, THIRST OR FATIGUE.

BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS? WHO ARE YOU?

I THOUGHT, YOU WOULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT ALREADY.

I PAINTED THIS PAINTING. I AM ELIAS VAN DAHL, THE COURT PAINTER OF MERIDIAN.

!

OR AT LEAST I WAS, BEFORE PHOBOS STEPPED IN.

"I WORKED FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY FOR A LONG TIME. WHEN THE KING AND THE QUEEN VANISHED, PHOBOS WAS CROWNED."

LIFE HAS NEVER BEEN EASY IN MERIDIAN, BUT PHOBOS MADE IT UNBEARABLE.

"HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK TO ANYONE AND ORDERED EVERY PORTRAIT OF HIM TO BE DESTROYED."

PHOBOS

"PHOBOS CLOSED HIMSELF IN THE PALACE AND SHOWED HIMSELF ONLY TO HIS LOYAL WHISPERERS."

"AND SO I, THE MISERABLE COURT PAINTER, WAS PLACED ON A BLACKLIST."

I DECIDED TO LEAVE THE CITY. I USED A PORTAL TO ESCAPE TO ANOTHER DIMENSION...

...TO ANOTHER ERA.

WITH A SPELL I GOT INTO YOUR WORLD, IN A TIME, WHERE PAINTERS LIKE ME WERE APPRECIATED.

SO YOU TRAVELLED IN TIME?

I ENDED UP IN EUROPE IN THE 18TH CENTURY. THERE, I FOUND MY HAPPINESS.

"I HAD A NEW IDENTITY AND A NEW LIFE! I WAS ABLE TO PAINT, DREAM AND HOPE."

"AND LIKE ANYONE ELSE, I WAS ABLE TO LOVE."

BUT PHOBOS WAS RELENTLESS. I HAD ONCE PAINTED A PORTRAIT OF HIM, SO I HAD TO BE PUNISHED.

"THE LOYAL SERVANTS OF PHOBOS FOUND MY SAFE HAVEN, I WAS ARRESTED AND JUDGED."

SINCE YOU LOVE YOUR WORK THAT MUCH, YOU CAN SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN YOUR MASTERPIECE.

"THE PAINTING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE NAMED 'THE LAST TEAR'. IT HAD ITS OWN STORY..."

"IT DEPICTED A VILLAGE WHERE NO ONE HAD CRIED IN CENTURIES."

"THE LAST TEAR WAS IN A CRYSTAL BOTTLE THAT WAS KEPT IN THE CATHEDRAL."

"EVER SINCE, LIFE IN THE VILLAGE HAS BEEN A CELEBRATION. THERE WAS AN ETERNAL SPRING!"

"CEDRIC MADE A NEW HOLE IN TO THE VEIL AND SO MY PAINTING BECAME A PORTAL."

"HE RETURNED TO MERIDIAN AND I WAS ABANDONED IN THE WORLD I HAD CREATED MYSELF."

IN A WORLD THAT SUDDENLY CAME TO LIFE BECAUSE OF MAGIC.

THOSE PEOPLE AREN'T REAL, BUT THEY LIVE AS IF THEY WERE. IN ONE, ETERNAL DAY.

WHAT A NIGHTMARE!

IT IS A SIGN OF PHOBOS' EVILNESS. I'VE BEEN TRAPPED IN HERE FOR... I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW LONG!

300 YEARS, ELIAS! WE COME FROM THE 21ST CENTURY.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS...

HE IS PRETTY GOOD-LOOKING, THOUGH,

SHUT UP, IRMA.

WHAT ABOUT THAT GIRL IN THE PAINTING?

WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE. THE MEMORY OF HER HAUNTS ME FOREVER.

IF I... IF I ONLY HAD A CHANCE TO FINISH THIS PAINTING OF HER...

WE'LL HELP YOU GET THE COLOURS, SO YOU CAN FINISH THE PAINTING, ELIAS.

HO-HOW?

THIS MAY SOUND A BIT SILLY, BUT DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?

DO YOU WANT AN HONEST ANSWER?

I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU'RE SAYING, DEAR CHILDREN. SAVE YOUR BEDTIME STORIES FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

BUT IT'S THE TRUTH! MONSTERS ATTACKED US!

YOUR TRICK WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME. YOU HAD FUN WITH SCARING PEOPLE AND EVEN GOT INTO THE NEWS.

YOU WANTED TO DO IT AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME, THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND, RIGHT?

NO!

GIVE UP, FRANK. THEY ALREADY TOLD US WHAT HAPPENED: THE MONSTROUS MONSTERS DAMAGED THAT PAINTING.

OKAY, MAYBE THEY WEREN'T MONSTERS. BUT WE WERE NOT ALONE AT THE MUSEUM.

EXACTLY. I CAN EXPLAIN, HOW...

LEAVE IT BE, BOY. WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH.

JUDGE COOK WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORIES, THOUGH.

ARE YOU THE BOYS' PARENTS?
GOOD EVENING, JUDGE.
HERE IS OUR ATTORNEY.
OUR URIAH IS INNOCENT! HIS USELESS FRIENDS HAVE GOTTEN HIM INTO THIS MESS!
LET ME DO THE TALKING, MRS.
NO, I'LL BE TALKING NOW. LITTLE URIAH AND HIS FRIENDS' TRICK COULD HAVE BECOME EXPENSIVE.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO RUIN THE BOYS' LIVES. I HAVE A DAUGHTER THEIR AGE WHO ATTENDS THE SAME SCHOOL.
THEY AREN'T GOING TO JAIL, ARE THEY?

NO, THEY ARE NOT. THE DAMAGED PAINTING WAS ONLY A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS BEING RESTORED.
I'VE ALREADY SPOKEN WITH THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR. HE IS READY TO DROP CHARGES.
WHAT A RELIEF.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE BOYS WILL GET AWAY SCOT-FREE, THOUGH.

OHHH...

THERE THEY ARE.

HOW ARROGANT!

CALM DOWN, CITIZENS! THESE GIRLS ARE OUR FRIENDS AND THEY'VE COME TO HELP US.

OR AT LEAST THEY SAY SO.

IT WAS JUST AND IDEA, ELIAS.

BUT WEIRD ENOUGH TO WORK.

THIS IS A WORLD THAT NEVER CHANGES. WE'RE LIVING IN A MOMENT THAT DOESN'T PASS BY.

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF WE TRY TO CHANGE THE SITUATION.

BUT WHAT IF YOU CAN'T USE YOUR POWERS?

FORGET THE POWERS. SOMETIMES, LESS IS MORE!

SO FAR YOU'VE TRIED TO MIX YOUR COLOURS WITH WELL WATER, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

EXACTLY.

SO LET'S TRY SOMETHING NEW! MAYBE THE LAST TEAR STORED IN THE CATHEDRAL WILL MAKE A CHANGE.

THE DOOR IS LOCKED.

HEY, YOU THERE! LEND US A HAND!

!

A WORLD THAT CAN'T CHANGE, IS A WORLD WITHOUT HOPE, RIGHT?

PRECISELY, ELIAS. MAYBE NOTHING WILL HAPPEN, BUT...

...WE CAN ALWAYS TRY!

THUMP

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

THUMP

THOSE GIRLS ARE SERIOUSLY TRYING MY PATIENCE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LORD CEDRIC?

NOTHING IS WORKING! WHY DOES EVERYTHING HAVE TO BE THIS COMPLICATED?

IN THE OLD TIMES CHARMED PEOPLE ACCEPTED THEIR FAITH WITHOUT COMPLAINTS.

WHERE DOES THIS ARROGANCE COME FROM?

VERY GOOD QUESTION, MASTER. GOOD MANNERS AREN'T APPRECIATED ANYMORE. SHOULD I TAKE CARE OF IT?

NO, VATHEK. THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO MEET THOSE WITCHES AGAIN.

YEP! WE DID IT!

UUFF!

SVLAN

WOW! VERY IMPRESSIVE.

INDEED. NOT EVEN I HAVE SEEN THE CATHEDRAL FROM THE INSIDE. I ONLY PAINTED THE FACADE.

INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL!

THIS MUST BE THE LAST TEAR. TAKE IT, ELIAS.

TAKE IT WITH YOU AND MIX YOUR COLOURS WITH IT.

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, ELIAS.

EVERYTHING IS USELESS! THERE IS NO HOPE!

FWHAAM

IT'S FROST THE HUNTER!

!

BU-BUT...

THIS PROVES THAT I WAS RIGHT, ELIAS. WE CAN BREAK THE CURSE!

DO AS I SAID! RUN HOME AND MIX THOSE COLOURS!

HURRY! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE HUNTER.

GOOD JOKE, IRMA. HOW DO YOU PLAN "TO TAKE CARE OF" THAT MONSTER?

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE PETTY, CORNELIA.

THE PAINTER CAN WAIT. IT'S YOUR TURN FIRST. LAST TIME YOU RAN AWAY, BUT...

NO OFFENCE, BUT WE THOUGHT WE'D RUN AWAY THIS TIME AS WELL.

KKRAAM

YOU CAN TRY!

OUTSIDE, FAST! LET HIM FOLLOW US.

GALLOP, CRIMSON! *LET'S CATCH THEM!*

AT THIS RATE HE'LL CATCH US ON THE STEPS OF THE CATHEDRAL.

TA-DADOOM

MAYBE, MAYBE NOT.

JUST AS I THOUGHT! FROST IS SO FULL OF HIMSELF THAT HE FORGOT TO CROUCH!

KRONK

UHH...

HAVEN'T YOU READ ANY GUIDE BOOKS ON RIDING?

YOU SHOULD WEAR A HELMET!

GRR... YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS.

SPLAT

!

IRMA!

DON'T LOOK AT ME.

WE DID IT, RIDER. AREN'T YOU A BIT TOO BIG TO SCARE FIVE YOUNG GIRLS?

!

WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLEMAKERS IN OUR VILLAGE. LEAVE WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

ARE YOU CHALLENGING ME? DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

NO, AND WE DON'T ACTUALLY CARE.

WILL YOU LEAVE VOLUNTARILY OR DO YOU NEED AN ESCORT?

IT WORKS! IT WORKS!

WHAT?

IT WORKS, GIRLS! THE TEAR DISSOLVES THE COLOURS!

I CAN PAINT AGAIN!

THAT MEANS OUR POWERS ARE BACK AS WELL.

THE CURSE OF PHOBOS IS GONE!

EARTH!

AIR!

WATER!

KRRRKRKR

FIRE!

I'M SORRY, FROST. THIS ISN'T YOUR LUCKY DAY.

OH...

SUMMON THAT IDIOT HOME, VATHEK. I'LL INFORM PRINCE PHOBOS ABOUT THE SITUATION.

THE BATTLE WITH THE GUARDIANS ISN'T OVER YET.

CAN YOU FEEL THE WIND BLOWING?

AND THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT MY DOINGS.

WOOSSHH

NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE!

EVERYTHING IS NOT MEANT TO STAY THE SAME FOREVER.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

WE'LL RETURN TO OUR OWN WORLD, BUT WE'LL LEAVE THE PORTAL OPEN.

WHY? CLOSING PORTALS IS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT TASK, ISN'T IT?

YES, BUT THAT PORTAL IS ALSO YOUR ONLY WAY TO GET BACK HOME.

THIS IS MY HOME NOW. NO ONE IS WAITING FOR ME ANYMORE... NEITHER IN MERIDIAN NOR ELSEWHERE.

AFTER YOU'RE GONE THIS PAINTING WILL BECOME A PAINTING AGAIN.

WE...

DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, GUARDIANS OF KANDRAKAR.

BU-BUT...

I'M ASKING A FAVOUR.

SO BE IT!

GOODBYE, ELIAS.

FAREWELL, GIRLS.

HEART OF KANDRAKAR...

...TAKE US HOME.

EPILOGUE:
A FEW DAYS LATER
IN THE MUSEUM OF
HEATHERFIELD...

...AND WHEN YOU HAVE MOPPED THE CORRIDORS, STEGOSAURUS NEEDS YOU IN THE WEST WING.

BUT SIR, WE DUSTED IT JUST YESTERDAY!

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT THE DUST OF THE CENTURY? OUR STEGO IS MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD.

THAT DIVIDED BY HUNDRED... HMM...

HEY! HOW MUCH IS "MILLIONS OF YEARS" DIVIDED BY "A CENTURY"?

THREE MONTHS, KURT! IT'S THE TIME WE SPEND AS MUSEUM SLAVES!

DON'T COMPLAIN, URIAH. YOU SHOULD BE GREATFUL THAT THE JUDGE LET US GO THIS EASILY.

I GUESS SO. WE CAN ENJOY DOZENS OF HILARIOUS AFTERNOONS.

SCREW COMMUNITY SERVICE! AND SCREW JUDGE COOK!

HEY! ISN'T THAT HER DAUGHTER?

SO WHAT? THIS ISN'T HER FAULT, IS IT?

DID I SAY THAT?

HI...

HI...

OUT FOR A CULTURAL VISIT, LADIES?

NO, URIAH.

WE CAME TO MEET A FRIEND.